

II. Amendments to the Specification

Please amend Paragraph 22 as follows:

[0022] In one embodiment, the first area 306 (FIG. 6) (or 106 for panel 100) can be reinforced, such as by thickening, fibrous, particle or resin reinforcement or by the addition of a reinforcing member, such as a metal mesh, scrim, fabric, or panel, for example, made of glass, graphite, plastic or metal, such as galvanized steel mesh or sheet metal. These reinforcements are preferably embedded or laminated to the panel on or in the first area as taught in, for example, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/288,189 to William P. Bezubic Jr., filed November 5, 2002, entitled "Cementitious External Sheathing Member with Rigid Support Member" commonly assigned to the assignee of the present application, now U.S. Patent No. 7,028,436, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Please amend Paragraph 25 as follows:

[0025] In U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/342,529 to William P. Bezubic Jr. and Claude Brown Jr., filed January 15, 2003, entitled "Cementitious External Sheathing Member Having Improved Interlaminar Board Strength" (Bezubic II), commonly assigned to the assignee of the present application, now issued Patent No. 7,155,866, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein, the Applicants teach the introduction of a resinous bond promoter, such as acrylic, starch, polyvinyl alcohol, or polyvinyl acetate, a rheological agent, or the use of mechanical means described below to improve the strength between individual layers of cementitious material. Sufficient resinous additions, manipulation of the fiber, or both, can result in improvements to ILB (inter-laminate board) strength. In addition to resinous bond promoters and rheological agents, Bezubic II proposes the use of mechanical manipulation of the wood fiber so that the individual fibers can be oriented in a "z" direction between layers to improve ILB strength. In addition to using the suggested additives, or apart therefrom, Bezubic II proposes the use of a series of pins, partially or fully disposed within the layer or layers of the fiber cement product to pierce the sheet and displace the fibers perpendicular to the direction of

the forming machine, thus allowing the fibers to join the sheets together. Bezubic II also teaches employing further, or alternatively, a piercing wheel, punching die, vibration table, needling equipment, or a smoother surface such as a roll or plate that can be used to upset the fiber location on each, or selective ones, of the layers of the fiber cement product.